

(Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, Title 2, Division 6, California Code of Regulations)

**§ 18360. Complaints.**

(a) Pursuant to Section 83115, a person may submit a sworn complaint to the Commission or the Commission may on its own initiative investigate an alleged violation of the Act.

(b) A sworn complaint shall be filed on a form made available by the Commission and shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- (1) Be in writing.
  - (2) Identify the person or persons who allegedly violated the Act and, if known, the specific provision or provisions of the Act allegedly violated.
  - (3) Describe with as much particularity as possible the facts constituting each alleged violation.
  - (4) Be based on facts of which the complainant has personal knowledge, or based on information and belief supported by documentary or other evidence included or described in the complaint.
  - (5) Include or describe with as much particularity as possible evidence or means of obtaining evidence in support of the complaint.
  - (6) Include names and addresses of potential witnesses, if known.
  - (7) Be signed by the complainant under penalty of perjury.
- (c) This regulation does not prevent a person from complaining by telephone to the Commission or requesting anonymity when doing so, but only a sworn complaint

filed substantially in conformity with subdivision (b) entitles the complainant to the procedural rights set forth in Section 83115 and in this regulation.

(d) Prior to each regularly scheduled Commission meeting, the Commission staff shall provide each member of the Commission a report with the information specified in paragraphs (1) and (2):

(1) With respect to sworn complaints received since the last report:

(A) The name of the complainant unless the complainant is a confidential informant.

(B) The name of the person or persons complained against.

(C) The date the sworn complaint was received.

(D) The alleged violation or violations of the Act.

(2) With respect to a staff-initiated investigation commenced since the last report:

(A) The name of the person who is the subject of the investigation.

(B) The date the staff initiated the investigation.

(C) The alleged violation or violations of the Act.

(3) The Commission staff shall also provide additional information a Commissioner requests to that Commissioner, including a copy of a sworn complaint, unless the Executive Director determines, in consultation with the Chief of Enforcement, the information will compromise the impartiality of the Commissioner on matters alleged in a complaint.

(e) The Chief of Enforcement, with the authorization of the Executive Director, shall provide information about sworn complaints and staff-initiated investigations to other governmental agencies that have an official and specific interest in the information,

and make every effort to cooperate with other governmental agencies in a position to assist the Commission with an investigation. However, the Commission may decline to disclose the identity of a confidential informant.

(f) The Executive Director shall take the following actions with respect to complaints:

(1) Notify the complainant in writing within 14 days of receipt of a sworn complaint that the Commission will do one or more of the following:

(A) Investigate the allegations of the complaint, in which case the response shall inform the complainant the commencement of an investigation only indicates the complaint alleges a violation of the Act, and the culpability of the person complained against, if any, has not been determined.

(B) Refer the complaint to another governmental agency.

(C) Take no action on the complaint because, on the basis of the information provided, the Commission does not appear to have jurisdiction to investigate, but the complainant may provide additional information.

(D) Take no action on the complaint because the allegations of the complaint, absent the Commission receiving additional information, do not warrant the Commission's further action for the reason stated.

(E) Take additional time to evaluate the complaint to determine whether an investigation should ensue and provide an appropriate explanation for the delay. This information shall be provided within successive intervals of no more than 14 days per interval until the Commission notifies the complainant it has acted on the complaint under subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(2) Provide the subject of the sworn complaint with a copy of the complaint within three business days of receipt and any correspondence sent to the complainant pursuant to subdivision (f)(1) when it is sent to the complainant. However, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Enforcement and provided withholding the information is otherwise consistent with law, the Executive Director may decline to provide a copy of, or may redact information from, the complaint or the correspondence sent to the complainant. If all or part of a complaint or correspondence is withheld from the subject of the complaint, what is withheld may not be disclosed to another person except to a law enforcement agency on a confidential basis. If the sworn complaint is otherwise made public, a copy of the complaint shall be promptly sent to the subject of the complaint.

(3) Inform the subject of a staff-initiated investigation of the alleged violation or violations not later than the time the information is provided to the Commissioners. However, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Enforcement that providing the information would jeopardize the investigation, the Executive Director may decline to inform the subject of the complaint. If the Executive Director makes this determination, he or she shall prepare a memorandum setting forth justification for the declination, which shall be retained in the enforcement case file. If the subject of the complaint is not informed of the complaint, the existence of the complaint may not be disclosed except to a law enforcement agency on a confidential basis.

(g) If the Commission investigates the allegations of a sworn complaint, the Executive Director shall notify the complainant in writing of the following:

(1) The time, date, and location of any public hearing or public meeting on the complaint scheduled to be heard by an administrative law judge or the Commission.

(2) The date, time, and location of any public proceeding on the complaint scheduled to be heard by a court.

(3) The Commission's or a court's final resolution of the complaint.

(h) If the person who filed the sworn complaint disagrees with the response sent pursuant to subdivision (f)(1)(C) or (D), he or she may submit in writing, within 20 days of receipt of the response, a request for reconsideration that shall be directed to the Executive Director, who shall forward the correspondence to each member of the Commission for consideration.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Section 83115, Government Code.

#### HISTORY

1. New section filed 10-9-75 as an emergency; effective upon filing. Certificate of Compliance included (Register 75, No. 41).
2. Amendment filed 5-22-78; effective thirtieth day thereafter (Register 78, No. 21).
3. Amendment of subsection (g) filed 11-2-78; effective thirtieth day thereafter (Register 78, No. 44).
4. Amendment of section heading filed 10-29-81; effective thirtieth day thereafter (Register 81, No. 44).
5. Editorial correction of subsection (f) filed 10-29-82 (Register 82, No. 44).
6. Amendment of subsection (g) filed 9-24-2007; operative 10-24-2007. Submitted to OAL for filing pursuant to *Fair Political Practices Commission v. Office of Administrative Law*, 3 Civil C010924, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, nonpublished decision, April 27, 1992 (FPPC regulations only subject to 1974

Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking requirements and not subject to procedural or substantive review by OAL) (Register 2007, No.39).

7. Amendment filed 6-11-2008; operative 6-11-2008. Submitted to OAL for filing pursuant to *Fair Political Practices Commission v. Office of Administrative Law*, 3 Civil C010924, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, nonpublished decision, April 27, 1992 (FPPC regulations only subject to 1974 Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking requirements) (Register 2008, No. 24).